

1606533521

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Violet's Lock House, Lock and Dam #2 (Lock 23)				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: End of Violets Lock Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Darnestown				
STATE Maryland			COUNTY: Montgomery	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
				<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC				
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No				
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific _____				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Washington, DC			STATE:	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Montgomery County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Rockville			STATE Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1936 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress				
STREET AND NUMBER: 10 First St. SE				
CITY OR TOWN: Washington, DC			STATE:	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The only remains of the lock keeper's house is a brick chimney with a stone base.

The lock is dressed in sandstone.

The feeder lock enters the canal just below the lock.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric☐ Historic☐ Agriculture☐ Architecture☐ Art☐ Commerce☐ Communications☐ Conservation☐ Education☐ Engineering☐ Industry☐ Invention☐ Landscape☐ Architecture☐ Literature☐ Military☐ Music☐ Political☐ Religion/Phi-

losophy

☐ Science☐ Sculpture☐ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater☐ Transportation☐ Urban Planning☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	°	'	"		°	'	"	
NE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SW	°	'	"		°	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Christopher Owens, Sr. Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

MNCPPC

DATE

28 Feb 75

STREET AND NUMBER:

8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

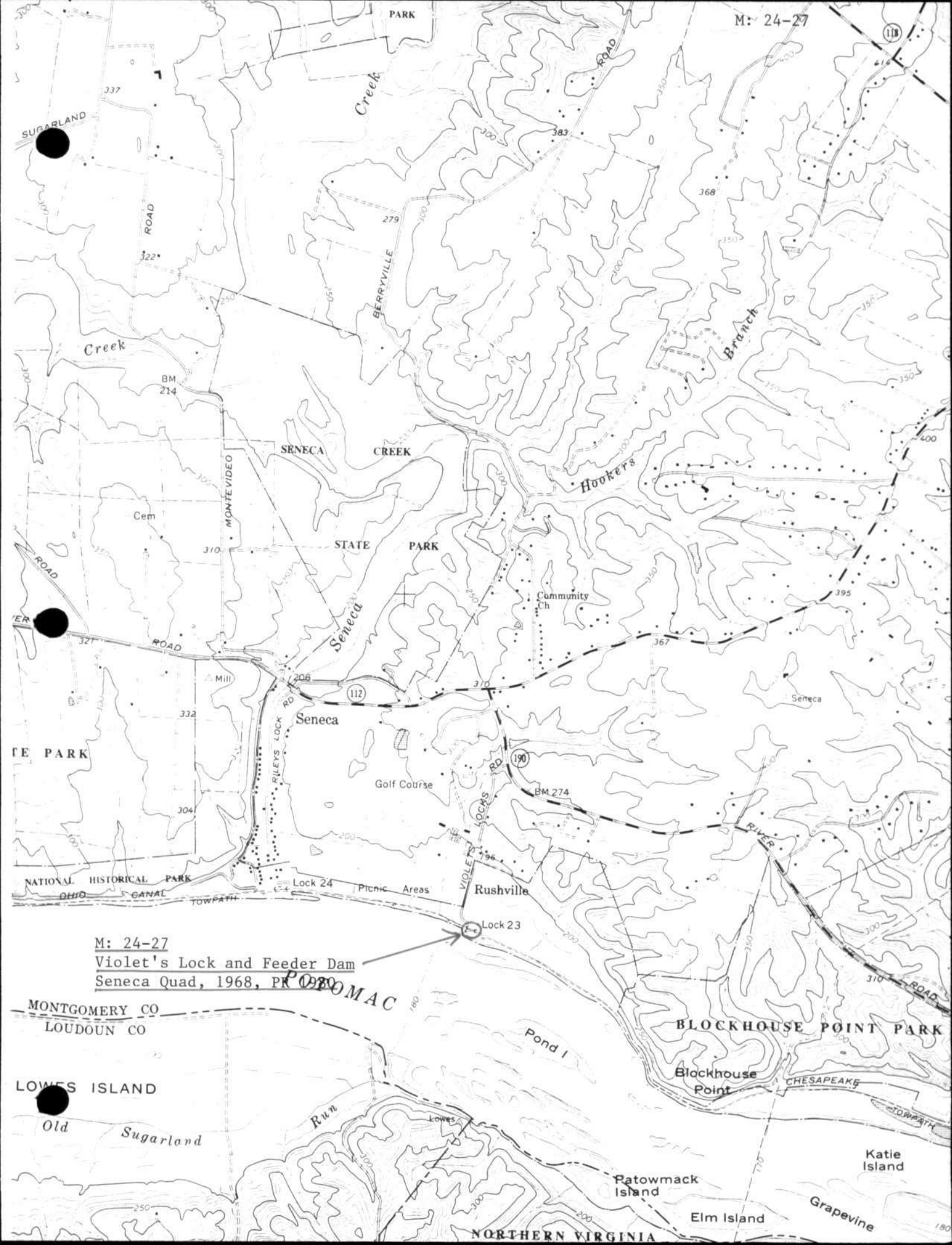
Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

1. Name of Landmark: Dam Number 2 on the Potomac River
2. Location: On the Potomac River, 0.6 miles downstream from the mouth of Seneca Creek; at Violet's Lock on the C&O Canal.
3. Present use: The dam is in disrepair and is submerged with water flowing over it.
4. Owner:
5. Date or period built: 1829-1831. It was rebuilt in 1867 only to suffer further ice damage requiring the rebuilding of the canal in 1873. Except for a 50 foot segment of the dam near the canal the dam has not been repaired since the early 1900's.
6. Architectural description: Built with brush and gravel with an archstone capping. The dam is 2,500 feet long and spans the width of the Potomac.
7. Builder: C&O Canal Company
8. Original owner: C&O Canal Company
9. Historic association: The dam was built by the canal company to feed water into the canal at Violet's Lock at a cost of \$29,000. On the Virginia side the dam feeds water into the Virginia canal, built by the Powtomack Company in 1785-92 to serve as a deep water chute around the rapids just below the site of the dam. The dam has a noticable effect on the river, backing water up for 9 miles, to form "Seneca Lake".
10. Bibliography: 1. Interview with Bill Davies, 125 West Greenway Boulevard, Falls Church, Virginia. Mr. Davies supplied most of the information used by the researcher in writing this report.
11. Researcher: Lewis Fisher
2653 Woodley Road, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

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Violet's Lock and Feeder Dam

Seneca Quad, 1968, PR 1070

POTOMAC

MONTGOMERY CO
LOUDOUN CO

LOWES ISLAND

Old Sugarland

NORTHERN VIRGINIA

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Violette's Lock & Feeder Dam

Violette's Lock Road, Seneca

Jennifer K. Cosham, 12 November 2007

Looking northwest



Eastern abutments of north lock (lift lock 23), facing north, showing tow cable drag marks



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Violette's Lock & Feeder Dam

Violette's Lock Road, Seneca

Jennifer K. Cosham, 12 November 2007

North lock (lift lock 23), facing northwest, closeup of paddle



Facing east. Lift lock 23 to left, Inlet Lock 2 to right



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Violette's Lock & Feeder Dam

Violette's Lock Road, Seneca

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East abutment, south bank of north lock (lift lock 23), facing south, showing tow cable drag marks



East abutment, south bank of north lock (lift lock 23), facing north, showing tow cable drag marks



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Violette's Lock & Feeder Dam

Violette's Lock Road, Seneca

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West abutment, south bank of north lock (lift lock 23), facing north, showing tow cable
drag marks



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Violette's Lock & Feeder Dam

Violette's Lock Road, Seneca

Jennifer K. Cosham, 12 November 2007

NPS signage describing the inlet lock and lift lock




National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Watering the Canal

Why are there two locks here? While they may look similar, the two locks played very different roles in the operation of the canal. The lock in front of you is Inlet Lock 2. The lock behind you is Lift Lock 23. Lift locks raised and lowered boats to overcome changes in elevation. Inlet locks controlled the amount of water let into the canal. Dams funneled water to the inlet locks. Dam 2 diverted water from the Potomac River to this Inlet lock, watering the canal from Lock 23 all the way to Lock 5 and Dam 1 at Little Falls.

Life and success on the canal depended on water. To ensure a steady supply of water, the canal company built seven dams and a steam pump along the river. In times of drought or low water, usually during the height of summer, river levels could drop dramatically. When the canal could not get enough water from the river, boat traffic stopped. This caused a loss of revenue for the canal company and the loss of a living for the boat captains.

Satellite view of Dam 2, Inlet Lock 2 and Lift Lock 23.
Water flows from right to left.



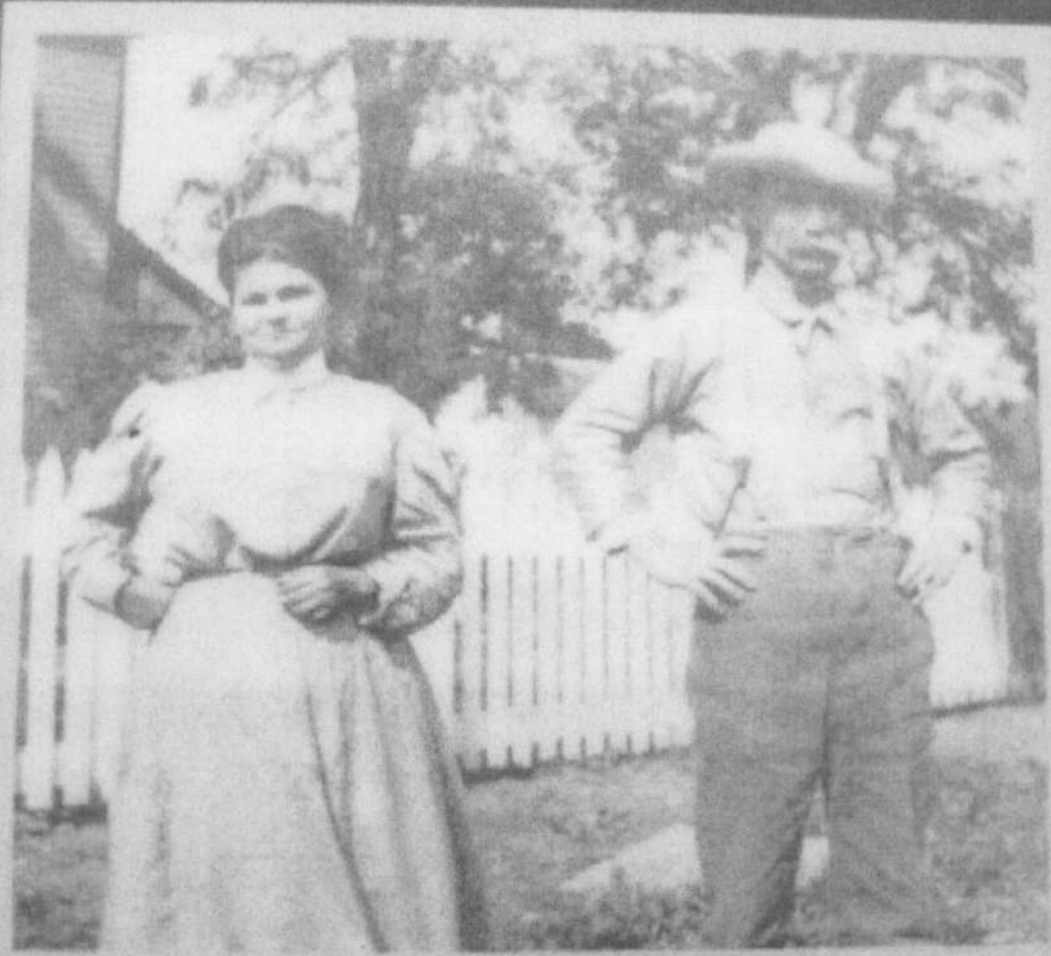
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Violette's Lock & Feeder Dam

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NPS signage on site



Kate and Alfred Violette were
the last locktenders at Lock 23.
Today the area bears their name.